

Serial No. 10/747,824

TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

On August 16, 2002, the undersigned attorney conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Trung Dang. During the interview the status of claims 10 – 12 were discussed. The Examiner indicated that the Amendment filed on April 7, 2005 overcame the rejection of claims 10 – 12 and that claims 10 – 12 were allowable. Also, a proposed amendment to claim 13 was discussed. On August 19, the undersigned attorney conducted another interview by telephone with Examiner Dang, in which another proposed amendment to claim 13 was discussed. The Examiner initially indicated that the proposed amendment may make claim 13 allowable over the cited references, however further review of the proposed amendment would be required.

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney thanks Examiner Dang for his careful review of this patent application. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1 -25 were pending in the application. Claim 13 has been amended and claim 21 has been canceled. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 – 20, and 22 - 25 will be pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 2, the Office Action objected to claims 16 – 17, and 19 – 21 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In paragraph 4, the Office Action stated that claims 1 – 9 and 22 – 25 were allowable over the prior art of record. Specifically, the Office Action stated that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims were allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art does not teach or suggest forming the interlayer via plug using an electroless plating process.

The Office Action also stated that independent claim 22 and its dependent claims were allowable as none of the prior art of record suggested the structure having a plurality of metallization layers, wherein each metallization layer had the claimed structure.

Claims 13 – 15 and 18 Are Allowable Over the Cited References

In paragraph 1, the Office Action rejected claims 13 – 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application Publication No.

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2002/0197844 to Johnson et al. (hereinafter "*Johnson*") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0107067 to Gudesen (hereinafter "*Gudesen*").

The invention of claim 13 of the present invention has been amended to include the recitation that the via metal fill plug is formed by an electroless plating process, which the Office Action has stated is not taught by any of the cited references. Because neither *Johnson* or *Gudesen* describe, teach, or suggest forming the via metal fill plug using an electroless process, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 13, and all claims that depend there from are patentable over the cited art and it is requested that the rejection be removed and the claims be allowed to issuance.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 - 20 and 22 - 25 are in condition for allowance and that each point raised in the Official Action with regard to these claims has been fully addressed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections to claims 13 - 15 and 18 be withdrawn and that claims 1 - 20 and 22 - 25 be processed to issuance in accordance with Patent Office Business.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please contact John Briski at 404.885.3141.

Respectfully submitted,

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